India's outstanding liabilities to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as at the end of March 1997 and end of March 1998 amounted to US$ 1,313 million (SDR 996.62 million) and US$ 664 million (SDR 497.33 million) respectively.

During the last two years i.e. 1996-97 and 1997-98 there were no purchases from the IMF. Various payments were effected to the IMF in the form of repurchases and payment of charges during these two years amounting to US$ 1,101 million (SDR 765 million) and US$ 701 million (SDR 513 million), respectively.

मध्य प्रदेश में लेखा-परीक्षा की गति

632. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि मध्य प्रदेश के आयकर विभाग में लेखा-परीक्षा कार्य की गति बहुत धीमी है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप लोगों को अत्यधिक कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है;

(ख) प्रदेश के आयकर विभाग में ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिनमें दस वर्ष पूर्व छापे के दौरान जब्त की गई लेखा बहियां अब तक नहीं लौटाई गई हैं;

(ग) इतने लम्बे समय से इन लेखा बहियों को विभाग द्वारा अपने पास रखने के क्या कारण हैं और ये लेखा बहियां कब तक संबद्ध व्यक्तियों को लौटा दी जाएंगी; और

(घ) मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा जिले में ऐसे कुल कितने मामले हैं और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० जनार्दन): (क) मध्य प्रदेश में लेखा परीक्षा कार्य उचित एवं संतोषजनक ढंग से किया जा रहा है।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश क्षेत्र में 254 ऐसे मामले हैं जिनमें दस वर्ष पूर्व मारे गए छापों के दौरान लेखा बहियों को जब्त किया गया था जिन्हें अभी तक वापस नहीं लौटाया गया है।

(ग) तलाश और अभिग्रहण मामलों में कर निर्धारण कार्यवाहियों को पूरा करने हेतु लेखा-बहियों की आवश्यकता होती है और तत्पश्चात् उन्हें अभियोजन कार्रवाईयां शुरू करने तथा उन्हें अन्तिम रूप दिए जाने सहित आगे की विधिक कार्रवाईयों के दौरान भी मंगाया जा सकता है। इन कार्रवाईयों के अनिर्णीत होने के कारण लेखा-बहियों को लौटाया नहीं गया है।

(घ) विदिशा जिले में अर्थात श्री ओंकार लाल, मार्फत लक्ष्मीनारायन ओंकार लाल विदिशा (म०प्र०) का ही एक ऐसा मामला है।

Measures Contemplated by Public Sector Banks for Vidarbha Farmers

633. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by Public Sector Banks particularly by the leading banks in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to ameliorate the financial condition of more than two million farmers whose crops were damaged by natural calamities recently leading to suicides by many farmers, details thereof;

(b) how many farmers were given loans by each of the banks to overcome their debt traps during the last six months in the region bank-wise; and

(c) what other measures are being contemplated by banks to provide easy loans to farmers of Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), standing guidelines already exist regarding extension of relief measures by banks to borrowers in the areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously particularly to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by natural calamity. These guidelines envisage, inter-alia, conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans, moratorium on recovery during the year of occurrence of the natural calamity, reschedulement/postponement of existing term loan instalments, immediate provision of need-based crop loans/working capital loans, extension of consumption loans upto Rs. 1,000/- and non-charging of penal/compound interest on current dues/rescheduled loans.

It has further been reported by RBI that crops have been damaged in most of the villages in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra due to hailstorms and unseasonal rains with the result they have been declared drought affected. The Lead District Managers have been advised by Bank of Maharashtra, the Convenor of State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) to extend all relief measures to the affected farmers, expecially the facility of conversion of short term loans into medium term loans and issue of fresh crop loans in accordance with the standing guidelines of RBI, issued to banks in this regard. Further, Lead District Managers have been arranging awareness camps/special Block Level Bankers' Committee meetings in the affected villages/blocks to guide the farmers. They are also being helped in completion of formalities in acquiring seeds, fertilizers, etc. received from the State Government.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Report of R.V. Gupta Committee

634. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the R.V. Gupta Committee appointed in December, 1997 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest measures for giving an impetus to the flow of credit to agricultural sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details oi recommendation made;

(c) the details of recommendations accepted; and

(d) the time by when these will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a one man Committee of Shri R.V. Gupta (former Deputy Governor, RBI) in December, 1997 with the following terms of reference:

(a) To study the working of the credit delivery system for agriculture through field level interaction with farmers, agriculturists, borrowers of commercial banks and banks staff and analyse the constraints in the flow of such credit to the farm sector.

(b) To make suggestions for simplification and improvements in systems and procedures including reduction in paper work for delivery of farm credit.

(c) To make proposals on other initiatives that may be taken by commercial banks to facilitate credit delivery to the farm sector.

The Committee submitted its report to RBI on April 21, 1998. RBI has reported that the Committee's recommendations cover the following areas:—

(a) Recommendations on operational aspects relating to agricultural credit. These recommendations cover, inter-alia, rationalisation of internal returns of the banks, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limits to farmers, introduction of new loan products with saving component, cash disbursement of loans, dispensation of "No Dues Certificate" and discretion to banks on matters relating margin/security requirements for agricultural loans above Rs. 10,000/-.

(b) Recommendations on aspects like abolishing of stamp duty for agriculture loans, matters relating to mortgage of land subsidy-linked credit, bank finance to tenant farmers and assistance in recovery of loans.

(c) Recommendations on simplification of application forms, agreements and other covenants/documents for agricultural loans and rationalisation of internal returns of